

RECOGNIZING JUDY STANLEY

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, March 29, 1998, The Friends of Monmouth Battlefield will host their annual Molly Pitcher Awards Reception. The recipient of this year's Molly Pitcher Award is Judith Hurley Stanley, a lifelong resident of Monmouth County, New Jersey who has selflessly served the community in so many ways.

Mr. Speaker, Judy Stanley has been active in issues and causes at a local, county and state level for as long as I can remember. She has been involved in the health care profession and has held numerous positions in the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey of which she currently serves as chairman. The Monmouth Medical Center and the Mid-Atlantic Health Group have also been blessed with Judy's involvement. The Governor recognized Judy's expertise in this area when she was appointed to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council.

Judy is also the founder and president of the Monmouth County Conservation Foundation. Generations of New Jersey residents will reap the benefits of Judy's efforts to preserve countless acres of beautiful open space in the Garden State through her activity in this organization and through her service on the Governor's Council on New Jersey Outdoors.

Beyond the preservation of open space, Judy has helped preserve the history of Monmouth County through her association with the Monmouth County Historical Association. And it is noteworthy that beyond the efforts to preserve space and facts, Judy's numerous associations in the area of education have illustrated her desire to share the facts, ideas, and knowledge that she has sought to maintain.

Mr. Speaker, Molly Pitcher's fame stemmed from her heroic service to our nation's troops during the Revolutionary War. During the War, Molly tirelessly refreshed the troops with pitchers of water. Judy Stanley truly exemplifies the true spirit of Molly Pitcher through her countless efforts to replenish and maintain Monmouth County and the state of New Jersey.

I would like to add my name to the extensive list of organizations, association, and clubs that have recognized Judy's outstanding service and extend my congratulations to her on this award.

SALUTE TO A GREAT AMERICAN

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on March 25, 1998, I had the privilege of introducing a close friend of mine, Wayne Hitchcock, to the members of the House and Senate Committees on Veteran's Affairs. Wayne is the National Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War and was appearing to present his organization's legislative priorities to the Committees.

Throughout the history of the United States, in six major wars spanning 221 years, more than 500,000 Americans have been taken prisoner. Each of these courageous men and women has experienced horrors unimaginable and undefinable in the annals of civilized existence. Most endured long-term deprivation of freedom and the loss of human dignity. Wayne was among those 500,000 Americans, and I wanted to take a moment to share his story with my colleagues.

Wayne was reared on a farm in Indiana and entered the military in 1942. He was assigned to the Army Air Corps and sent to Aerial Gunner School at Buckingham Air Base. He remained there as an instructor and later joined a combat crew and trained for overseas duty in B-24s.

Upon arriving in Foggia, Italy, his crew was assigned to B-17s. Wayne, flying as tail gunner, was shot down on his 14th mission over Hungary. After a few infamous box car rides, he spent 13 months in Stalag 17B in Krems, Austria.

The camp was evacuated on April 8, 1945. The prisoners were marched across Austria and liberated on May 3, 1945 by Patton's Third Army.

Wayne was awarded, among others, the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf, the European Campaign Medal with four stars and the Prisoner of War Medal.

Upon returning home, Wayne became a homebuilder, land developer and real estate broker. He later returned to government service and retired after 30 years, including 23 years as postmaster.

Upon his retirement, he and his wife, Jo, moved to Florida. Since then, they have donated their time to the American Ex-Prisoner of War. Wayne has held office and served on essential committees at the department and national level since 1982. He was also instrumental in obtaining funds for the National Prisoner of War Museum at Andersonville, Georgia.

This past year, he served as Senior Vice Commander for the American Ex-POWs and as their National Legislative Chairman and Legislative Reporter. He was elected and installed as National Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War on September 27, 1997, at the 50th National Convention held in Tacoma, Washington.

Wayne is also a life member of the VFW, the American Legion and the DAV. His service to the community goes beyond his work for our nation's veterans. He also served as a Boy Scout master for 20 years and is a 40 year member of Lions International.

I have known Wayne and Jo since I became a member of Congress. Without question, they are among the finest people that I know.

Over the years, Wayne has served as a member of my veteran's advisory council. As a member of the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs, I have always valued his advice and support. He is a good friend and a great American.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARCH AIR BASE AND THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AIR FORCE RESERVES

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, the 43rd Congressional District has been fortunate to participate in the writing of United States military history. I take the floor today to praise and honor a military installation that is an important part of Riverside, California. For the past 80 years, March Air Reserve Base, as it is now called, has contributed to the defense of our country and made a lasting impression in the lives of many service men and women. The March community is currently celebrating a milestone—the 80th anniversary of the installation and the 50th anniversary of the Air Force Reserve.

As March Air Force Base, it witnessed many advances in aircraft technology, from the JN-4D "Jenny" which landed there in 1917, to the KC-10 which was housed at the base in the 1980's. On March 20, 1918, March Field was officially named in honor of Second Lieutenant Peyton C. March, who had been recently killed in a flying accident. From there, Captain William Carruthers took over as the field's first commander. Following World War I, March Field was forced to close its doors due to budget cuts. With the creation of the Army Air Corps in 1926, March Field soon reopened as a pilot training field, training such luminaries as Hoyt Vandenberg, Nathan Twining, Thomas Power and Curtis LeMay. March Field became an operational base in 1931 and in 1949 became a part of the relatively new Strategic Air Command. From 1949 through 1993, March Air Force Base served as an integral part of the Strategic Air Command and America's nuclear deterrent force, a logistical springboard for supplies and equipment during the conflict in Southeast Asia and an effective support for the United States' defensive posture. March Air Force Base received its first Reserve unit in 1960.

In 1993, March Air Force Base was selected for realignment. Knowing how important the base has been historically and realizing its significance for the future, I fought vigorously to insure that it remained open. From its inception as a dirt air strip to today, the base has been a key element in the advancement of aviation and the growth of the modern Air Force. The impact of March Air Reserve Base's contributions to the community and the nation will be appreciated for many years to come. As March Air Reserve Base restructures, I want to offer them my full support, encourage them to look to their future as a large and important Air Force Reserve Base and look forward to their continued contributions to the defense of the United States.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY: A
NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct privilege and honor to congratulate the people of Greece on the 177th anniversary of their nation's independence. The Hellenic Republic has held high the torch of democracy since its inception in 1821, reflecting a love of freedom, justice, and self-government rooted both in its renowned history as well as in the exuberant spirit of its people. The ancient Greeks served as one of America's most inspiring examples during the creation of our Republic, and more recently has stood by our side as one of our closest and most loyal allies.

The governments of ancient Greece were the original laboratories of democratic government. Thousands of years ahead of their time, the leaders of these legendary city-states were powered by the then-revolutionary notion that the choices of individual voters could result in a fair, free, democratic government emboldened by the confidence of the populace and driven by the interests of its constituents. Centuries later, the lessons of their civic experiments would provide the intellectual foundation for the birth of America's own democracy. "To the ancient Greeks," Thomas Jefferson once proclaimed, "we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves, the American colonies, out of Gothic darkness."

Forty-five years after the birth of the United States, the Greek people determined to fight to end their own "darkness." Following both the examples of their forefathers and the encouragement of their American contemporaries, the Greeks rebelled against hundreds of years of domination by the Ottoman Empire. Their war of independence, which began on March 25, 1821, lasted seven years and received the full support of the young American nation. President James Monroe described the Greek struggle in 1822: "That such a country should have been overwhelmed and so long hidden under a gloomy despotism has been a cause of unceasing and deep regret. A strong hope is entertained that these people will recover their independence and resume their equal station among the nations of the Earth." Six years later this battle for freedom ended victoriously, as the Greek people overcame seemingly insuperable odds to establish a modern state with the intellectual and moral strength to match their ancient predecessors.

The record of the Hellenic Republic shows the realization of this early promise. Greece has stood on the front lines of the fight for international justice as one of only three nations in the world outside of the British Empire to serve on the side of the United States in every major international conflict of this century. One out of every nine Greeks died while defending their country against Nazi oppression during World War II. During the half-century since that brutal conflict, a strong and principled Greece has worked with the United States as member of NATO, standing firm against communism and, in more recent

times, the abridgement of human rights in the Balkans and elsewhere throughout the world. Throughout all of these obstacles, Greece's dedication to democratic principles has remained steadfast and proud.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Hellenic Caucus and on behalf of the citizens of California's Twelfth Congressional District, I am proud to commemorate the 177th anniversary of Greek Independence Day.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH BIRTH-
DAY OF THE MARIA JEFFERSON
CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS
OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to offer my congratulations to the Maria Jefferson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on celebrating 100 years of service to northeast Florida.

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in Washington, DC in October of 1890 with Caroline Scott Harrison, the wife of U.S. President Benjamin Harrison, as its first president. Just eight years later, on March 26, 1898, Saint Augustine, Florida became home to the Maria Jefferson Chapter of the DAR, named for the daughter of President Thomas Jefferson. I am proud to represent Saint Augustine, the nation's oldest city of European extraction, and proud to call many of the Chapter's members my constituents and friends. The Florida State Society of the DAR boasts 106 chapters with over 8,000 members.

Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution are descendants of those who aided in achieving American Independence. The National Society accepts service, with some exceptions, for the period between April 19, 1775 (Battle of Lexington) and November 26, 1783 (withdrawal of British Troops from New York). Among those ancestors with accepted service are signers of the Declaration of Independence, those with military service and those whose ancestors gave patriotic service in the Continental Congress, State Conventions and Assemblies, committees made necessary by the war, members of the Boston Tea Party, doctors and nurses and other rendering aid to the wounded and prisoners of war or refugees from occupying forces.

Those of us who have been to the DAR Constitution Hall, here in Washington, DC, have enjoyed the building's beauty and grandeur, courtesy of the devoted members of the DAR. However, because of the selfless way in which the members perform their community service, most of us have never heard what the DAR usually does on a daily basis. Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution are dedicated to the lofty goals of honoring our nation's historic forebears, preserving our nation's heritage and promoting education.

The members of the DAR not only honor their ancestors who have served our country, they themselves serve its citizens by visiting

disabled veterans at their homes, in hospitals and in nursing homes. They sold recreational activities for patients such as carnivals and picnics and participate in special programs for homeless veterans such as medical and social screening and providing buddy bags. Some chapters give special support to needy, individual women veterans and participate in special women's health care programs. This year, five chapters in Florida are raising special funds towards the purchase of a van to transport veterans between medical appointments.

The DAR works with schools to help instill historical awareness and pride in our country by presenting medals and college scholarships and provide boarding schools for underprivileged children. DAR members also present American flags to schools and other public institutions and sponsor historic plaques.

I am thrilled to be able to use this opportunity to call attention to the work of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Saint Augustine's Maria Jefferson Chapter and the Chapter's regent Jane Rhea Douglas for their selfless and important work on behalf of our nation's veterans both past and present.

Congratulations Maria Jefferson Chapter on your 100th birthday. I send to you my sincere wishes that the new millennium may hold in store many more years of commendable service to our community.

CURBING UNAPPROVED UNION
SPENDING

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, last week the AFL-CIO announced that it would launch a campaign against California Proposition 226, the June 2 referendum that suspends labor unions' incessant practice of contributing portions of dues to political campaigns that their members may oppose. This initiative and others like it in states across the country require unions to receive approval from union members before contributing dues money to political entities.

Labor organizations feel that their role in the political arena would suffer if they were forced to tell the truth about union dues. Mr. Speaker, the issue here pertains to individuals' hard-earned wages, not the unions ability to influence government. Working Americans must be assured of their right to decide where to spend their paychecks. The overbearing role that the forced-membership labor groups have played in the lives of dedicated men and women is appalling.

I find it unbelievable that, in a nation that guarantees liberty and justice for all, unions can force members to fund political campaigns that they do not support. Proposition 226 and similar initiatives in 30 other states would put an end to this injustice.

Mr. Speaker, we must do our part in this fight against ruthless labor unions and the obtrusive role that they have played in the lives of so many Americans. Curbing unsolicited political donations from union members is a good place to start.